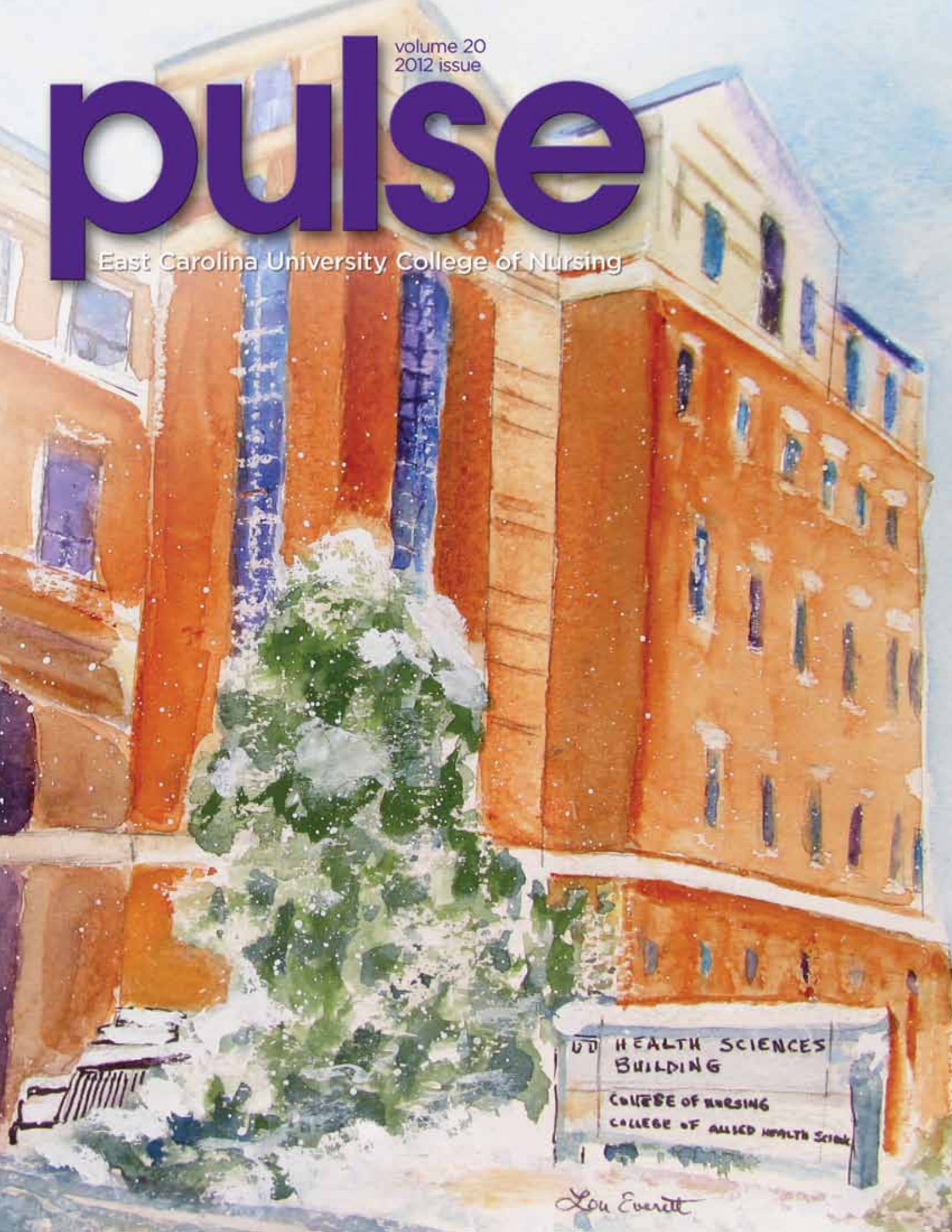


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pulse

East Carolina University College of Nursing





ON THE COVER

*College of Nursing—Health Sciences
Division by Lou Everett*

A message from the dean



Dr. Sylvia Brown

In a recent article for *Nurse Educator*, I advocated that our profession is poised for the “perfect storm” due to shrinking budgets and new health-care laws. Many view this as a challenging time for health care. On the contrary, my vision for East Carolina University’s College of Nursing embraces these developments as opportunity—the opportunity for our profession to not only participate in the changing landscape of health care but to flourish in response to new legislation and recommendations from the Institute of Medicine’s *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* report.

This issue of *Pulse* details several strategies that the College is engaged in that align with the IOM report. Our

faculty, staff, and students are excited about the opportunities ahead and energized by the “perfect storm” that is upon us.

Aligning with the IOM’s *Future of Nursing* key message of higher education that “promotes seamless academic progression,” we are partnering with four community colleges to offer the Eastern NC Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses (RIBN) project. This endeavor allows students to enroll simultaneously at a community college and ECU. At the end of year three, students will sit for NCLEX, and in year four they will finish BSN coursework at ECU. This project also addresses the recommendation to increase the number of baccalaureate nurses.

Our advanced practice MSN concentrations are truly “Models of Excellence” as Concentration Director Bobby Lowery explains in his article. The FNP/ANP concentrations receive over 200 applications for the 50 available seats each year. As the need for primary care increases, the door is wide open for nurse practitioners and other advanced practice nurses to fill these roles. To further our involvement in the IOM key message of allowing nurses to practice to the full extent of their education, Bobby Lowery is involved in discussions on this topic sponsored by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

As we work toward our goal of excellence, the Dean’s Advisory Council provides excellent feedback and pulse

checks to help us plan curricula and program growth. This input allows the College to plan for future needs like long-term and palliative care and the importance of developing a DNP program, all of which are congruent with the IOM recommendations. Be sure to see the article “Staying in Touch” for a glimpse of the spring Dean’s Advisory Council meeting.

Finally, the IOM report emphasizes the importance of preparing nurse leaders who are capable of holding a seat at the decision table. Not only are we advancing leadership skills through the East Carolina Center for Nursing Leadership and our new MSN leadership course on preparing nurses to serve on boards, but we are working with our undergraduates in class and on the student leadership council. Our students are learning skills that will position them to be leaders in the workplace. “We’re Listening” is a very real story about the development and growth of our student leadership council.

I encourage you to embrace the “perfect storm” and help us rewrite the future of the nursing. As you do this, be proud to be a Pirate Nurse!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sylvia T. Brown". The script is fluid and cursive.

Sylvia T. Brown, EdD, RN, CNE
Dean and Professor





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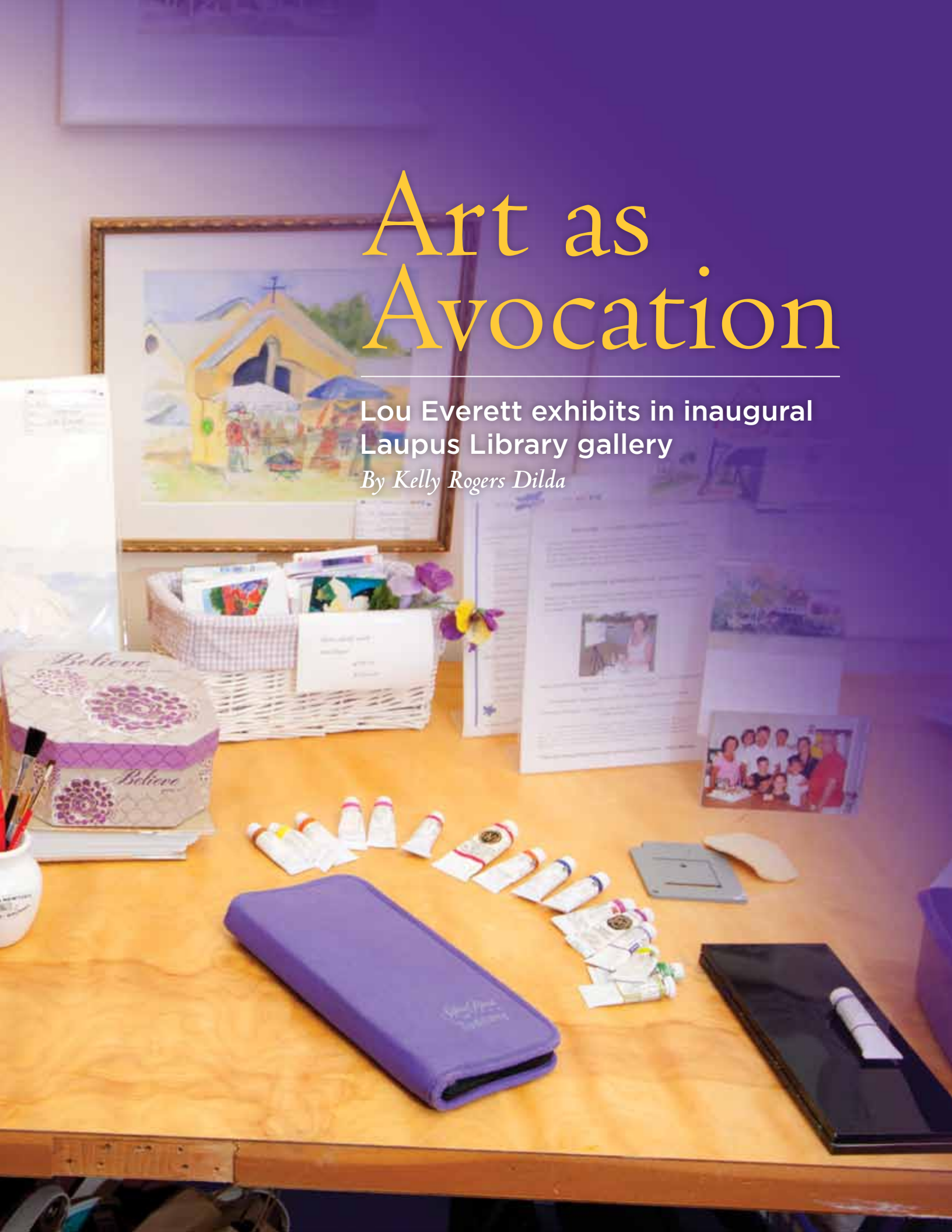




Art as Avocation

Lou Everett exhibits in inaugural Laupus Library gallery

By Kelly Rogers Dilda







Pictured at left, *Daffodils*. At left, Dr. Lou Everett in her studio. *The Rivers Building* appears at the bottom left.

Within the Division of Health Sciences, there are many faculty, staff, and students who create art as an avocation while pursuing demanding careers in the health sciences. The opportunity to view the results of such creativity can open new windows of understanding and appreciation for our colleagues and enrich and challenge our understanding of our own humanity. In January 2012, Laupus Library began a new series of exhibits in the Evelyn Fike Laupus Gallery entitled *Art as Avocation*. The series showcases and celebrates the artistic talents and self expression of faculty, staff, and students from the Division of Health Sciences by highlighting one or more artists' work in a gallery exhibit available for viewing for six to eight weeks.

Dr. Lou Everett, professor emerita from the College of Nursing, presented

the first exhibit in this series. Titled *Humble Beginnings*, Lou's collection expanded upon works created in honor of the 50th anniversary of the College of Nursing with watercolor impressions of eastern North Carolina, ECU, and the Division of Health Sciences. The exhibit ran from January 31 until March 27, 2012.

"When I first discovered the joy of painting in watercolor approximately 17 years ago, I never dreamed it would serve me so well in each aspect of my being—emotionally, physically, and spiritually. Having such love for my family but also a passion for my career, I learned 'burning the candle at both ends' would result in bouts with pneumonia, which ultimately taught me to explore new ways of relaxing – that of painting," Lou said. Working as a nurse, a licensed marriage and family therapist, and later as an administrator, Lou needed an outlet. Her physician, Dr. Michael Ramsdell, advised: "Lou, you love your family very much, but you must learn to take better care of your health, or you are not going to be around to take care of your mother or your children."

After developing pneumonia in 1994, Lou enrolled in a watercolor class. Due to the high demands of a career that

required pursuing a doctoral degree, research, and publications to earn tenure, along with caring for family, Lou's healthy sleep patterns were compromised.

"With each bout of pneumonia, I began to paint more until I finally reached a decision—my family and my health were and still are my priorities, so my actions must dictate my heart and values." After three episodes of pneumonia and one hospitalization, she chose to retire from the role of associate dean for the undergraduate program, and work part-time to spend more time enjoying her family and her art. "This decision gave me the balance I needed."

"Painting has helped me maintain a much better balance to my life and a greater joy and appreciation for all the beauty around me. I've gotten out in tobacco fields, studied the blossoms, and found this much more fun than when I spent time suckering and topping tobacco growing up on the farm. I've enjoyed visiting old tobacco barns and scenes of my childhood as well as other local scenes."

Currently, she serves as clinical professor and coordinator for special projects such as retention and student success in the College of Nursing and teaches a plein air class at Painting Purple and Other Colors, a Working Artists' Studio and Gallery located in Greenville, North Carolina.

Lou has served many roles in the arts community including president of the Watercolor Society of NC (2007-2008) and the first president of Greenville Brushstrokes. Greenville





“Growing up as a sharecropper’s daughter, I spent many years working on the farm.”

Pictured at left, a visitor tours the “Art as Avocation” exhibit at Laupus Library.

Brushstrokes meets twice each month at the Greenville Museum of Art to critique each other’s art, share information, participate in shows together, and support art in the region. She also serves on the board for the Friends of the ECU School of Art and Design and is a member of the Carteret Onslow Neighborhood Artist Group, Twin Rivers Association, the Greenville Museum of Art, and the Paint NC group.

Lou participates in various shows and has received numerous awards and recognitions including a third

place People’s Choice Award in the Downtown Morehead City Public Art Project in February 2010 for her large mural of a sunset. Lou sums up her art by saying, “I’ve learned that the more I have shared with others, the richer my life has become.”

If you are interested in showcasing your work in the *Art as Avocation* series please contact Kelly Rogers Dilda at rogerske@ecu.edu. ■

Kelly Rogers Dilda is the head of communications and development for Laupus Library.



“Your artwork is amazing and I really appreciate you sharing them with us! It was all truly inspiring. I hope you continue to incorporate nursing into art.” —R. H.

Painting on left: *Spring’s Splendor*



Gone But Not Forgotten (14th Street)

Growing up as a sharecropper's daughter, I spent many years working on the farm primarily in tobacco, and I later became a caregiver to the loving parents who had me at the age of 43. I am truly thankful to all the mentors I had along the way who guided me on the journey of becoming a nurse, counselor, and, later, administrator. These roles have blessed my life with a wonderful career. However, with a strong work ethic, academia brought continuous challenges of the terminal degree moving farther and farther ahead

coupled with the demands of tenure and promotion as measurements of success.

It was in 1994 after developing pneumonia for the first time that I was led to Art as an Avocation. With each subsequent

bout of pneumonia, I painted more. Through these later years of painting and learning to be quiet and alone, I have learned to listen more and hear the guidance from my own Creator. I now know that the most important titles that I've ever been given have been the honors of being a wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, friend, and others that come from being in a family.

To my hard-working career-minded colleagues who focus on the well being of others, please remember that when our final curtain falls, it is not the credentials or what we've accomplished professionally that

will linger most in the hearts of our families and closest friends—it is what we have been to them personally. Enjoy your professional careers, but let's take care of ourselves, our health and our souls so that we can be there for our families. Joy is scattered all around us. It has been said, "See the good all around you even if you have to squint . . ." In painting, I've learned to squint a lot but to see a lot more! ■

—Lou Everett



"Thank you so much for showing us that you can have a life outside of nursing that can be just as rewarding and fulfilling. You're an inspiration!" —J.

Painting on right: *Stargaze Lily*





A New Start

Helen Brinson's service to eastern
North Carolina marked

By Crystal Baity



Building good relationships and partnering with others has driven East Carolina University alumna Helen Brinson's nursing career.

"We're all about collaboration and partnering," she said. "There is no way in eastern North Carolina to do the work that needs to be done without partnering, not only because of funding but other limited resources. We have to all work together to advance the nursing profession."

As 2012 began, Brinson ended her service as director of nursing education with the Eastern Area Health Education Center, which links universities, community colleges, and health-care agencies in providing continuing education, technical assistance, and consultation on practice issues. Her absence will be felt across the 23 counties in the AHEC region where she has long advocated for and reached out to nurses in rural areas.

One of her strongest partners has been the ECU College of Nursing, where she worked with every coordinator of the college's RN to BSN option, a pathway to a bachelor's degree for registered nurses since the 70s.

"Nurses need a lot of support to take that step to go back to school," said Brinson, a Beaufort native. "Access to courses is not the biggest barrier sometimes but prerequisites are. A lot can't get courses at a time when a nurse can take them. More are going online because many work 12-hour shifts with

little family or financial support."

While there are fewer barriers because of technology these days, the number of practicing nurses with bachelor's degrees remains low.

According to the North Carolina Institute of Medicine, 66 percent of newly licensed nurses enter the workforce with associate degrees in nursing, and fewer than 15 percent of those achieve a bachelor's or higher degree in nursing during their careers.

The institute has asked the state's universities and colleges to produce more baccalaureate prepared nurses to care for the complex health-care needs of patients and to expand the pool for future faculty and advanced practice nurses by 2020.

A new partnership between ECU and four area community colleges is aimed at bolstering those numbers through dual enrollment toward a bachelor's of science in nursing degree. And as has often been the case, Brinson supported bringing the program to eastern North Carolina after its successful pilot in the western part of the state.

"She has made significant contributions that have impacted the health of citizens in eastern North Carolina through preparation of nurses and other

health-care providers," said Dr. Sylvia Brown, dean of the College of Nursing, who has known Brinson more than 30 years. "She has been a passionate leader for the nursing profession throughout her years of service and has a strong commitment to eastern North Carolina. She is definitely a true 'Pirate Nurse.'"

MAKING ADVANCED EDUCATION ACCESSIBLE

Brinson recalled the early years of ECU's RN to BSN option, a time without cell phones, computers or the Internet. Distance education literally meant driving from one location to another, while logging miles and lugging books across county roads to introduce nursing programs and opportunities.

Brown, a leader in the college's online movement, remembered Brinson's involvement.

"She helped us develop cohorts to advance the education of nurses through our RN to BSN and RN to MSN options at locations such as Elizabeth City and Morehead City, many years before online delivery was available," Brown said. "She was an active recruiter for us and made visits to many community colleges and hospitals throughout the region to pave the way







for nurses to advance their education. In addition, planning continuing education offerings for nurses to assist them in staying current was an important part of her role."

Many practitioners know AHEC through its continuing education classes and seminars.

"It's an integral part of our mission," Brinson said. "We're mission-driven, and if health-care professionals can't come to us, we go to them."

A leader in the state AHEC network, Brinson has pushed efforts to address workforce issues including recruitment and retention strategies to reduce chronic nurse shortages and improve health care in the region.

A successful grant writer and administrator with more than \$3 million in grants and contracts for Eastern AHEC, she also has worked to expand clinical sites and find preceptors for nursing students, helping to bridge the gap between practice and academic environments, said Debbie Ramey, associate director of AHEC and a longtime colleague. "People look to her as a resource, whether connecting the dots or connecting with people," Ramey said. "She's really good at seeing the big picture and getting people to work together."

Karen Krupa, a former College of Nursing RN to BSN coordinator, often saw Brinson's long range planning and people skills. "She can't think in one-year blocks. She's thinking in five- or ten-year blocks of time for funding," Krupa said. "You can give grants and not be active. But Helen was. She did on-the-road recruitment, set up sites,

and made introductions to people and agencies."

EXCITED ABOUT NURSING

Another of Brinson's passions is school nursing. She has been involved in a Kate B. Reynolds funded project with Dr. Marti Engelke in the College of Nursing and Martha Guttu, retired state school nurse consultant, focused on school nurse case management for children with chronic illness.

"I think nurses in the schools do a couple of things. They promote nursing as a career to the school age population and are a key element in keeping children healthy to stay in school. They reduce absences and help a child progress through the year. It's such a support, especially in the rural areas where there may not be a pediatrician," Brinson said. The recommended ratio is one school nurse for 750 children. Some districts have one school nurse for up to 4,000 children.

Ramey said Brinson developed a statewide network of contacts and stayed abreast of emerging issues and state and national trends. "Her ability to be connected — she's a people person. She's very much a mentor, a nurturer for students or older professionals, the whole span," Ramey said.

Before AHEC, Brinson worked at Duke University Medical Center, Greenville Hemodialysis, Pitt County Memorial Hospital, and the NC Department of Health and Human Services, where she was a public health nurse for homebound kidney patients in eastern North Carolina.

At retirement, Brinson received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine award, one of the state's highest honors. Last year, she was inducted in the ECU College of Nursing's first class in the Hall of Fame, a who's who of nursing leaders who have made significant contributions in clinical practice, nursing research, leadership, and nursing education.

"Relationships and knowing people

BRINSON NAMED 2012 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA

In recognition of Brinson's unwavering support to the College of Nursing throughout her career, the College of Nursing honored her as the 2012 Distinguished Alumna on March 16, 2012, during the annual induction to the CON Hall of Fame.

The Distinguished Alumna award recognizes alumni who have made exemplary contributions to the nursing profession.

During the award program, Dean Brown proudly noted that Brinson was an enthusiastic, passionate supporter of the College and the nursing profession. "She was part of our initial distance education delivery when distance education meant that faculty went to outlying areas to teach courses."

"I had the opportunity to work and help expand nursing in my home community. My passion for nursing in our area is genuine—this is my home," said Brinson.



are so important," Brinson said. "I've been privileged to work with many wonderful health professionals and very lucky to enjoy the work of AHEC and the College of Nursing."

For now, Brinson is spending more time with her family, especially her 88-year-old mother and her grandchildren, and helping plan her daughter's spring wedding. Later, she plans to consult in areas of nursing workforce, continuing education, and conference management.

Another ECU nursing alumna, Paula Josey, has been appointed Brinson's successor at Eastern AHEC, where she previously worked as assistant director of nursing education. ■

Crystal Baity is with the ECU News Bureau and frequently covers stories for the College of Nursing.

Recent College of Nursing Happenings

COLLEGE OF NURSING RECEIVES SECOND NLN CENTER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

East Carolina University's College of Nursing received top recognition among eight schools in the nation for the way it teaches students.

ECU has been named a Center of Excellence for 2011-2015 by the National League for Nursing. Six of the eight, including ECU, are repeat designees. Nineteen schools in the nation currently hold the designation.

The award was presented September 23, 2011, at the NLN's annual Education Summit in Orlando, Florida. Joining Dr. Sylvia Brown, dean of the ECU College of Nursing, in receiving the award were faculty members Dr. Frances Eason, chair of the college's Center of Excellence task force, Mary Holland, executive director of program evaluation in the college, and Mark Hand, clinical assistant professor and president of the N.C. League for Nursing.

"This award continues to demonstrate the commitment that our faculty and staff have to creating a student-centered learning environment that demonstrates excellence in nursing education," Brown said.



The National League for Nursing's Dr. Beverly Malone, chief executive officer, and Dr. Cathleen Shultz, president, presented the award.

"We are so honored to have been re-designated as a National League for Nursing Center of Excellence for our distinction in creating environments that enhance student learning and professional development," Brown said. "This award reflects our continued commitment to provide innovative programs in nursing education that ultimately impact the health and well-being of citizens in our region and around the world."

The college has been recognized for offering a wide variety of programs and technology to help students learn including distance education, simulation labs, clinical placements, and study abroad. ECU is known for innovative online outreach efforts designed to increase working nurses' access to education in rural areas.

Since 2004, the National League for Nursing has invited nursing schools and colleges to apply based on their ability to demonstrate sustained excellence in faculty development, nursing education research, or student learning, and professional development. Schools must show a commitment to continuous quality improvement.

ECU faculty and staff serving on a task force to obtain designation were chair Eason, Lou Anne Baldree, Laurie Evans, Mary Holland, Donna Lake, Kim Larson, Annette Peery, Donna Roberson, Ann Schreier, and Mary Wilson.

NURSING CLASS GIFT COMPLETED FOR VILLAGE IN GUATEMALA

A village in Guatemala now has safe drinking water thanks to a class gift from May graduates in the East Carolina University College of Nursing.

Kaitlyn Whitlock of Charlotte, president of the BSN spring 2011 class, said the well, which was expected to take up to one year to build, was completed in three months. ECU is recognized with a plaque at the well site. Whitlock hopes to commemorate the class gift in the College of Nursing, too.

Students raised \$5,000 to pay for the well through Living Water International, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing clean drinking water to those in need.

According to a report from the organization, the community had been dependent on an unprotected hand-dug well, and some of its 150 residents suffered from cholera and dysentery. The new 35-meter well will provide safe drinking water for residents who make a living by farming, ranching, or teaching at a nearby school. During the well's construction, community members helped by donating materials, making lunch, or providing overnight security.

The effort extended beyond class members, as staff, faculty, and family members gave too. Students raised money in a variety of ways including



Pictured at right: Dean Brown displays 2011-2015 NLN Center of Excellence in Nursing Education plaque.

selling Valentine's care packages for parents to send to their nursing student.

For several years, Dr. Kim Larson, assistant professor of nursing, has led summer study abroad classes to Guatemala where students have seen needs up close by working in health clinics, schools, and nutrition centers in the Mayan community.

"Students always say, 'I wish I could do more.' Now I can say, 'You have,'" Larson said. "The well will bring safe drinking water to hundreds of families, especially young children who are the most vulnerable to adverse consequences of unsafe water and inadequate hygiene related to an insufficient water source."

NURSING FACULTY MEMBERS RECEIVE AACN DAISY AWARD

Four faculty members in the ECU College of Nursing have been

recognized as outstanding nurse educators by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

Mark Hand, Betty Lease, Becky Bagley, and Dr. Mel Swanson received the Daisy Award.

The award was created by the Daisy Foundation and AACN to provide nursing schools with a national recognition program designed to honor teachers for their commitment and inspirational influence on future generations of nurses.

Hand is a clinical assistant professor in undergraduate nursing science, junior division. Lease is a clinical assistant professor in undergraduate nursing science, senior division.

Bagley is a clinical instructor and director of nurse-midwifery in the graduate nursing science department. Swanson is a

professor in the doctoral program.

Honorees may be nominated by students, peers, clinical staff in affiliated practice sites, and school administrators. Recipients are chosen by participating institutions. Each winner received a hand-carved Healer's Touch sculpture, a Daisy Faculty Award pin, and a certificate.

The Daisy Foundation was established in 1999 by the family of Patrick Barnes, who died at age 33 of complications from Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura. In the hospital for eight weeks, his family was awed by the clinical skill and compassion they experienced from the nurses who cared for him and his family. After his death, they created a foundation to honor nursing excellence and research. ■





Staying in touch

Dean's Advisory Council provides input

By Laurie Evans

The College of Nursing Dean's Advisory Council is made up of regional partners in health care. Clinical agencies used for practicum experiences, NC Community College and regulatory partners meet twice a year to discuss how our current students and graduates are performing. The goals of the meetings are to identify skills and competencies that our students need to be effective employees and to obtain feedback about the strengths and

weaknesses of our graduates.

During the recent meeting on February 2, 2012, participants explored the importance of communication and interprofessional teams working together to positively impact health care outcomes. Mary Holland, executive director of program evaluation, noted that partners voiced a concern that interprofessional teamwork varies in urban and rural health-care centers. With this information, the college can develop strategies to navigate potential

conflicts. Dialogue of this sort is mutually beneficial to the College of Nursing and our clinical agencies.

Dean Brown is quick to laud the input she receives from the advisory council. "The advisory council provides invaluable information to keep us grounded in what is occurring in the practice arena. It bridges the gap that often occurs between academe and practice," she said.

The advisory council also provided a resounding voice of support for the solid foundation ECU College of Nursing provides in core knowledge and critical thinking skills. Learning content in the classroom and having the wherewithal to call on that knowledge effectively in a clinical situation is a trait that Pirate Nurses possess very early in their careers.

With the developing need for rehabilitative and long-term care facilities, the

partners agree that there is increasing demand for skilled providers. As the college moves forward with curricular changes and planning, input regarding elder care is critical to decision-making in program design and content. "These meetings help us stay in touch with current issues impacting health systems and education systems in our region," adds Dean Brown.

Looking ahead, the College of Nursing will depend on input from the advisory council to continue efforts for continuing quality improvement and program evaluation. Most importantly, Holland emphasizes that the advisory council demonstrates to our practice partners that we are engaged in providing the best quality of nursing professionals to care for the needs of our citizens. ■

Laurie Evans, MA, is the marketing director in the College of Nursing.

2012 COLLEGE OF NURSING DEAN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Lee B. Bailey, BSN, RN
Nash Health Care
- Bonnie Benetato, PhD, MBA, RN
Greenville, VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic
- Laura Bliley, MSN, RN
Eastern Area Health Education Center
- Linda Burhans, PhD, RN
NC Board of Nursing
- Valerie Cooke, MSN, RN
Vidant Roanoke-Chowan Hospital
- Elizabeth De Jesus Toderick, MSN, RN
Pitt Community College
- Teresa Ellen, MPH, BSN, RN
Craven County Health Department
- Lynn Fisher, MSN, RN
Vidant Beaufort Hospital
- Shirley Harkey, MSN, RN
Wayne Memorial Hospital
- Linda Hofler, PhD, RN
Vidant Medical Center
- Paula Josey, MSN, RN
Eastern Area Health Education Center
- Melinda Laird, MSN, RN
Wilson Medical Center
- Rosanne Leahy, MSN, RN
CarolinaEast Medical Center
- Donna Moses, MSN, RN
Vidant Health
- Effie Webb, MSN, RN
Golden Living Center



Pictured from left to right: Linda Burhans, Laura Bliley, Elizabeth Toderick, Teresa Ellen, Mary Holland, Paula Josey, Valerie Cooke, Effie Webb, Lee Bailey, Shirley Harkey, and Sylvia Brown.



Partnering for a BSN

ECU works with community colleges to increase access to the BSN degree

By Crystal Baity

High school seniors searching for an affordable nursing degree are being recruited for a new program this fall at East Carolina University and four area community colleges.

Beaufort County, Lenoir, Pitt, and Roanoke-Chowan community colleges are part of the Eastern North Carolina Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses (ENC RIBN) program. Students accepted into the program will be dually enrolled at one of the community colleges and ECU. The intent is to increase the number of nurses with bachelor degrees in North Carolina to care for the complex health-care needs of patients and to expand the pool for future faculty and advanced practice nurses.

"We are looking for the best and brightest who want to get their BSN degree and who need an affordable way to do it," said Kelly Cleaton, ENC RIBN student success advocate and lead recruiter. "It will be a rigorous program, but it will be more affordable and accessible to students who may not be able to leave home."

The competitive program will take only 20 students in its first class with the goal of enrolling five students from each community college. Students will

take most of their coursework at the community college before finishing their senior year at ECU.

"If we can keep students in their home community, it often helps them go back and work in their communities," Cleaton said.

While costs vary from school to school, RIBN students can save an estimated \$7,000- \$10,000 in tuition alone, officials said.

Students also will have access to support services and counseling. "They are going to have someone with them all the way through to support them, and they'll have a group of people going through the exact same thing," Cleaton said.

PARTNERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Dr. Alexis Welch, dean of health sciences and nursing at Lenoir Community College in Kinston, was an early champion of RIBN. "A lot of our rural students don't have the opportunity to start at a university, but they can finish there," she said.

Welch has met with high school counselors in Lenoir, Jones and Greene counties to tell them about the project. Students must score a minimum of 500 on the critical reading portion of the SAT and meet other requirements just to be considered. Students who are successful will likely be highly motivated, self-focused, and have family support, she said.

Featured at left is Kelly Cleaton, MAEd, ENC RIBN Student Success Advocate.



ECU
College of Nursing

"It's a real honor to have ECU be the college of choice for our community colleges to feed into," Welch said. "It's a very close partnership, and we're working together to make sure it's seamless for the student. It's a win-win for the students, university, and community colleges."

The need for universities and colleges to produce more baccalaureate prepared nurses by 2020 was identified by the North Carolina Institute of Medicine.

"The partnership between ECU and the community colleges addresses the North Carolina Institute of Medicine's goal with a strong approach to work together to enhance the nursing workforce," said Dr. Sylvia Brown, dean of the ECU College of Nursing. "ECU is proud of the collaboration and shared vision for the RIBN project."

According to the Institute of Medicine, 66 percent of newly licensed nurses enter the workforce with associate degrees in nursing and fewer than 15 percent of those achieve a bachelor's or higher degree in nursing during their careers.

"Given the important role community colleges have in educating the majority of the N.C. nursing workforce, it is imperative that we identify new ways for qualified nursing students entering a community college to seamlessly progress to the completion of a baccalaureate degree at the beginning of their careers if we hope to increase the proportion of BSN-prepared nurses and build the necessary faculty pipeline to avert a severe workforce crisis," according to a news release by the Foundation for Nursing Excellence.

The foundation received a \$1.37 million grant from The Duke Endowment in 2011 to expand the RIBN project in five regional

partnerships across the state, including 14 associate degree and five university nursing education programs.

"A lot of talented nurses will have the opportunity for advancement and fulfillment by going on to get their bachelor's degree. Not everybody has to have a bachelor's degree, but it will open doors, particularly for younger nurses later on," said Laura Bliley, former director of nursing for Beaufort County Community College in Washington, which serves Beaufort, Hyde, Tyrrell, Washington, and Martin counties. "My hope for the community is that there will be a larger pool of bachelor's degree nurses in our service area."

Elizabeth De Jesus Toderick, director of nursing for Pitt Community College in Greenville, said the project builds on the long-standing, positive relationship between PCC and ECU.

"I think lifelong learning is so important for our region and profession," Toderick said. "We're facing major health-care issues and we must understand evidence-based nursing to achieve the best outcomes."

The community college will continue to offer and support the associate's in nursing degree for entry level nurses. And RIBN is great way to get started on an advanced degree. "If I had a child wanting to go into nursing, I'd push it 100 percent," Toderick said.

BUILDING ON A SUCCESSFUL MODEL

Holly House, 20, lives in Mills River just outside Asheville and attends Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College which partnered with Western Carolina University to offer North Carolina's first RIBN program in fall 2010.

House lives at home with her parents. She said being able to get a bachelor's of science in nursing degree without having to go through multiple application processes and saving money are huge benefits. "Not only are you saving a great amount on tuition, you are also



cutting out the cost of room and board, especially if you can still live at home," House said.

House has wanted to be a nurse since middle school. She took all the allied health classes offered at West Henderson High School and became a certified nursing assistant before graduation. She intends to pursue a master's degree.

Another student, Kayla Edwards, is married with a 3-year-old daughter. She lives in Mill Spring and works part-time as a certified nursing assistant in home health while attending school.

She graduated from Polk County High School in 2007 and hopes to practice pediatric nursing in the area. "I had tossed around the idea of nursing, but once I had my daughter in 2008, my hospital experience showed me that I definitely wanted to go into nursing," she said. "I love how there are so many different options within the nursing field itself. I am saving thousands of dollars by going this route. If I hadn't found out about this program, I honestly would have probably just went and got my ADN and stopped there. I could not have afforded to pay tuition to get my BSN. This program is really awesome and I feel very lucky to be a part of it."

For more information on the eastern North Carolina program, contact Kelly Cleaton at 252-744-6498 or cleatonk@ecu.edu. ■

Crystal Baity is with the ECU News Bureau and frequently covers stories for the College of Nursing.



Riding for a Cause

The Voice of the Pirates hosts a motorcycle ride in memory of his daughter

By Doug Boyd

The highways of eastern North Carolina rumbled September 17, 2011, as nearly 100 motorcycles rolled to raise money for a scholarship at East Carolina University.

Leading the way on their own Suzuki Boulevard cruiser was the Voice of the Pirates, Jeff Charles, and his wife, Debby. The ride benefited the Heather A. Purtee Nursing Scholarship, a fund named for their daughter, who died in a car crash 19 years ago while a nursing student at ECU.

"Right after Heather's accident, we asked people in the community if they'd be interested in donating to the nursing school to honor her memory," he said. "It just dawned on me let's use my love of motorcycling as a way to raise money for the school."

Charles clearly remembers December 10, 1992. His daughter worked in the floral department at the old Harris Supermarket on Tenth Street. She headed out that day in the store van to deliver flowers to Bethel. In a heavy rainstorm, her van collided with a truck on NC 11. She died instantly.

"People say the worst thing in your life is to lose a child," Charles said. "I

can certainly vouch for that. It's always with you, but you learn to move on. It's always on your heart."

Nursing leaders praised the work Charles and his wife have put into raising money for the \$1,500 annual scholarship, which was first awarded in 1994.

"It is a wonderful way to honor their daughter and provide a scholarship for a nursing student," said Dr. Sylvia Brown, dean of the ECU College of Nursing.

Charles is in his 24th year as the Voice of the Pirates and has been riding motorcycles about as long. In 1999, while he was in Charlotte announcing the ECU-West Virginia football game, his Yamaha 1100 drowned during Hurricane Floyd.

On the ride, not everyone sports

ECU colors, though they are popular. "There is some, but there are a lot of people who ride in it who aren't even Pirate fans, who like doing charity rides," Charles said.

This year's scholarship recipient, Courtney Evans, wore plenty of purple every football Saturday. Not only was she a senior nursing student but also a Pirate cheerleader and a Greenville native.

"Between early morning weights, clinical rotations, class time, and cheerleading practice, there is little time to work," said Evans, who hopes to be a pediatric nurse practitioner. "As an ECU cheerleader, I feel honored to represent ECU in all of my endeavors. Just as Heather's dream was to explore the nursing field, I hope I can make the Purtee family proud as I follow the same dream in my life."

"We're using a tragic situation that happened to our daughter to make it a positive situation today," Charles said. "What it teaches you is there's an incredible resilience with the human spirit. God and time help you heal."

To make a contribution to the nursing scholarship, call Mark Alexander at 252-744-2238. ■

Doug Boyd, MA, is with ECU News Services and frequently covers stories for the health sciences division.



Featured at right is Courtney Evans, recipient of the Heather A. Purtee Nursing Scholarship.



East Carolina University
College of Nursing
Hall of Fame

Sylvia T. Brown

February 2011

A Legacy of Excellence

Service to others recognized by Hall of Fame induction

By Crystal Baity

Significant contributors to nursing education, administration, research, and practice were honored as 40 nurses were inducted to the inaugural ECU College of Nursing Hall of Fame in 2011 and eight nurses were inducted in 2012.

More than \$51,000 raised through the creation of the Hall of Fame will support a new fund to provide merit-based scholarships for nursing students. The first Hall of Fame scholarship was awarded this academic year to Stephanie Howard, a BSN student.

"Our legacy of excellence will continue with the scholarships," said Dr. Sylvia Brown, dean of the College of Nursing.

The launching of the Hall of Fame program coincided with the 50th anniversary of nursing education at ECU and will continue as an annual project.

Each inductee received a flame-shaped award, which Brown said reminded her of the nursing pin designed by the first nursing class 51 years ago.

"Each of our inductees is a bright light," said Brown, who was inducted by Vice Chancellor of health sciences Phyllis Horns. Brown, in turn, inducted Dr. Horns. Horns served as dean of nursing for 19 years.

Horns described the college as a jewel in the health sciences division and commended Brown's leadership and the creation of the Hall of Fame. "I am reminded daily of the accomplishments of everyone in this room and those who couldn't be here tonight," she said. "I take great pride in this college."

2011 Inaugural Inductees were: Gale Adcock, Dr. Alta W. Andrews, Helen Merrill Brinson, Dr. Sylvia T. Brown, Marshall Dewayne Byrd, Mary Sue Cummings Collier, Cindy Matthews Duber, Dr. Frances R. Eason, Dr. Martha Keehner Engelke, Dr. Lou W. Everett, Selba Morris Harris, Dr. Linda Dunnam Hofler, Dr. Phyllis N. Horns, Jacqueline Hutcherson, Dr. Mary K. Kirkpatrick, Dr. Dixie Koldjeski,

Cynthia Sturdivant Kotrady, Karen C. Krupa, Dr. Judith Kuykendall, Dr. Therese G. Lawler, Belinda Temple Lee, Dr. Deitra Lowdermilk, Bobby Lowery, Kimberly Glover McDaniel, Richard E. McDaniel, Dr. Dianne M. Marshburn, Hazel Browning Moore, Brenda Darden Myrick, Evelyn Perry, Eldean Pierce, Diane A. Poole, Dr. Donna Roberson, Dr. Mary Ann Rose, Louise Haigwood Sammons, Dr. Elaine S. Scott, Sylvene Spickerman, Dr. Debra C. Wallace, Dr. Sandra M. Walsh, Patricia Perry Womble, and Dr. Annette B. Wysocki.

2012 Inductees were: Susan Sutcliffe Lassiter, Dr. Linda D. Burhans, Nettie T. Evans, Martha McDonald Darrt, Susan Shaw Gerard, Joanne Schoen Stevens, Carmen Robinson Vincent, and Anna Weaver.

Dr. Frances Eason has been at the college since the 1960s, first as a student and then as a teacher. "I have seen over the years our College of Nursing grow and grow and grow, and it's because of these people and many others that have helped us get there," Eason said.

Sue Collier, vice president of the patient/family experience office for Vidant Health Systems, said the induction "really represents the legacy of all the faculty and nurses who were my teachers and mentors. Throughout my career, none of this would be possible without the support of the teachers and really of all the patients we serve. We are in a profession that serves." ■

Crystal Baity is with the ECU News Bureau and frequently covers stories for the College of Nursing.



Featured at left are Helen Brinson, 2012 distinguished alumna, and the 2012 Hall of Fame Inductees. Back row from left to right: Sue Lassiter, Helen Brinson, Sue Gerard, Martha Darrt, Anna Weaver, Linda Burhans. Front row from left to right: Carmen Vincent, Nettie Evans, Joanne Stevens.

College of Nursing honors 98 students with scholarships

Scholarships with a total value of more than \$110,000 were awarded for the 2011–2012 academic year to undergraduate and graduate students in the College of Nursing. Below is a list of scholarships and recipients:

UNDERGRADUATE

Alice Etheridge Liles Scholarship

Alexa Hannon

American Legion Post #39 Scholarship

Brittani French

Carol Susan Ferreira Memorial Scholarship

Amber Brooke Cole
Charlotte McCoy

Catherine & Max Ray Joyner Scholarship

Heidi Nothdurft

Charlotte Martin-Beta Nu Scholarship

Courtney Evans

Hall of Fame Scholarship

Stephanie Howard

Pam Demaree-Mike McGinnis Memorial Scholarship

Jaime Cory

Diana Snodgrass Olive Memorial Scholarship

Shaneika Lassiter

Dorothy Marshall Cummings Scholarship

Ashley Minton

Dotty Bennett Harrell Scholarship

Jeffrey Wolgemuth

ECU Medical & Health Sciences Foundation Scholarship

Molly Frazier
Jessica Poe

Eunice Mann Garner Scholarship

Jessica Ashby
Isabella Cables
Maria Chavez
Angela Davis
Brandon Elvis
Kimberly Garfield
Jessica Goddard
Brittany Hawkins
Kwaneshia Hicks
Bethany Parrett

Michael Quidort
Lauren Small
Hannah Tavlos
Nicole Renee Thomas
Sandra E. Thomas
Casey White
Chelsea Wood

Eva Woosley Warren Scholarship

Tianna Coleman

Gertrude E. Skelly Scholarship

Lauren Ashley Collins
Lindsay Futris
Elizabeth Hammond
Brianne Monahan
Jacqueline Navarro
Leslie Patty
Yoojin Suh
Stephanie Whiting

Hal and Eldean Pierce-Beta Nu Scholarship

Ivey Dull

Heather Ann Purtee Memorial Scholarship

Courtney Evans

Hospice of Tar Heel Scholarship

Alyssa Rohrer

J.A.'s Uniform Shop Scholarship

Javen Skyler Carter

Mabel Cooper Hayden Scholarship

Jacqueline Riddle

Marguerite K. and Van Calvin Fleming Scholarship

Alice Nicole Brown



**Martha Whitehurst
Tarkington Scholarship**

John Wesley Artois
Vaneecia DeLisle
Sherry Nethercutt
Carli Tice
Ashley Carol-Ruth Tyson

**Rachel Klitzman Memorial
Scholarship**

Tiffany Murray

Robert L. Jones Scholarship

Brittany Hudson

The Taylor Foundation Scholarship

Victoria Cannon
Patricia Marrero

**University Book Exchange
Scholarship**

Katherine Dry

**Vickie E. and Steven C.
Whitehurst Scholarship**

Adam Andrews
Sara Farmer

GRADUATE

E.G. Barlow Scholarship

Tammy Collie
Kellie Glover

Berbecker Scholarship

Michael Elizabeth Kennedy Grant
Julie Linder

Blaise Michael Youngs Scholarship

Ifeoma Ilo

**Betty Berryhill Nurse
Midwifery Scholarship**

Jennifer Ann Berenics
Stephanie Gilliam
Melissa Hatter

**Erma and Paul Henry Community
Service Award**

Patricia Swagart

Ethel Smith Hicks Scholarship

Melissa Peoples

Perry-Oyler Scholarship

Jennifer Perry

Roccapiore-Tschetter Scholarship

Dara Crawford

Patricia Yow Memorial Scholarship

Alethia Sheperd

**Dr. Martha Alligood
Doctoral Scholarship**

Cynthia Hales Herndon

**Tammy Duvall Nurse
Anesthesia Scholarship**

Millicent C. Whaley

Louise Metts Lloyd Scholarship

Lori Foster

Gertrude E. Skelly Scholarship

Susan Auten
Ann Bell
Mary Anne Brady
Timothy Carpenter
Martha Evans
Joachim Gomes
Keyona Grant



Millicent Joy Hammonds
Mark Hand
Bethany Hardesty
Christine Jones
Kimberly Priode
Robin Reavis
Adam Roller
Lisa Surby
Millicent C. Whaley
Heather Whisnant

Norma Miller Daffin Scholarship

Sunny Coy

Eunice Mann Garner Scholarship

Julia Banks
Susan Carter
Staci Kay
Cynthia Klaess
Mary Beth Koehler
Judy Elaine Preston Melton
Amy Merritt
Marcia Miller
Stephanie Milliken
Sara Reese
Carol Rose
Mandesa Smith
Keenya Staten
Brittany Vestal
Jennifer Brice Williams

Ruth Glass Bunting Scholarship

Cynthia Lopez

**Frances Overton Wysocki
Memorial Scholarship**

Sarah Lovern

**Ray and Robin Webb-Corbett
Scholarship**

Nicole Mickelson

Gravely Foundation

Nicole Martin

PCMH Scholarship

Robin Reavis





2011 Golden Lamp Society members

Gale Adcock
Mark Alexander
Dr. Martha Alligood
American Legion #39
Dr. Alta Andrews
Rebecca Bagley
Shannon Baker
Melba Barden
Jennifer Batts
Dr. Josie Bowman
Boy Scouts of America
Troop 9
Melissa Brock
Dr. Sylvia Brown
Susan Bruck
Karen Bunch
Michael Bunting
Lana Chang
Bruce Cherry
Sharon Cherry
Robert Coffey
Sandra Coffey
Rita Coggins
Mary Collier
John Core
Sarah D'Empaire

Susan Dolinar
Donna Morgan Dorsey
Neil E. Dorsey
ECU Senior Nursing Class
Melydia Edge
Linda Fisher
J. Russell Fleming
Dr. Mary Gaddis
Phyllis Glasgow
Dr. Annette Greer
Carolyn Grune
Dr. Jason Hardee
Brode Harrell
Susan Harrell
Edward Healey
Mary Holland
Dr. Phyllis Horns
Dr. Walter Houston
Jacqueline Hutcherson
Brenda Jarman
Barry Jennings
Linda Jennings
Dr. Elizabeth Jesse
Ms. Joy Johnson
Carolyn Jones
Jeanette Jones
Sarah Jordan
Dr. Phillip Julian
Martha Kenworthy
Deborah Kornegay

Dr. Kenneth Manning
Dr. Linda Mayne
Dr. Maura McAuliffe
Richard McDaniel
Patricia McRae
Stephen Michaux-Smith
Vinnie Mills
Ashley Morgan
Melissa Nasea
Marlene Nickell
NP Council Eastern Region
Judith Parks
Dr. Annette Peery
Hal Pierce
Helen Pierce
Pirate Media Group LLC
Mary Plybon
Diane Poole
Dr. Walter Pories
Dr. Evelyn Pruden
William Reichert
Dr. Pamela Reis
Laura Reynolds
Dr. Donna Roberson
Jo Rodri
Bridget Rogers
Ron Ayers Motorsports
Dr. Mary Ann Rose
Dr. Sharon Sarvey

Dr. Elaine Scott
Patricia Sheehan
Ann Siva
Kimberly Smith
Rose Smith
Mary Sprague
Dr. Nancy Stephenson
Jacquelyn Stone
Valerie Tarte
Tamira Tate
Robert Jones
Dr. Stephen Thomas
Kathy Thorne
The University Book
Exchange Inc.
Vidant Health Systems
Kenneth Barlow
Dr. Sandra Walsh
Rebecca West
Scott Wetherbee
Dr. Paul Wiegand
Dorothy Williams
Lucille Williams
Nancy Windes
Amy Woodard
Alma Kay Woolard
Dr. Annette Wysocki
Dianne Youngs
Donna Zekonis

The Golden Lamp Society was created to recognize individuals who give year after year to ECU's College of Nursing. Any donor who gives a minimum of \$100 for two or more consecutive years becomes a member of the society. For more information, call Mark Alexander at 252-744-2238 or e-mail at alexanderma@ecu.edu.



Models of Excellence

Advance practice concentrations answer the call to provide access to health care

By Bobby Lowery

Nurse practitioners (NPs) are trusted, advanced practice registered nursing (APRN) professionals who have delivered safe, effective health care for more than four decades in the United States. Consistently ranked among the most trusted of all professionals, NPs and other APRNs have emerged as key contributors and leaders in addressing the increasing health disparities and access

to care in increasingly complex health care delivery systems. Increasing access to health care was the genesis and remains the driving force of the NP profession.

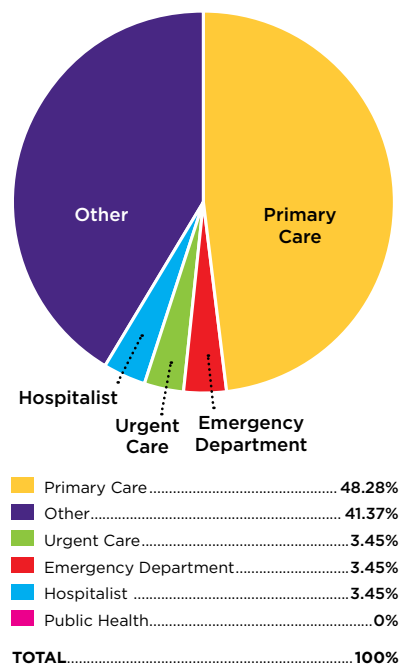
More than twenty thousand Americans die in the prime of life each year from preventable health problems arising from a lack of access to health care. Access to health care is an important determinant of quality of life and health care outcomes. Generalist

physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and certified nurse midwives are primary care providers who are indispensable in contributing to the overall health of the population. The ECU College of Nursing is a leader in providing qualified graduates to fill these important roles.

More than one million uninsured North Carolinians are likely to gain coverage by 2019 if the Affordable Care Act is implemented as originally passed in 2010. The increase in the number of newly insured North Carolinians will increase demand for health-care access, particularly primary care. Graduates of the Adult Nurse Practitioner (ANP)

Featured above is Roger Nelson, RN, FNP (BSN 1991 and MSN 2002)

Table 1: In what type of work setting are you employed?



and Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) concentrations at the College of Nursing meet market needs by increasing consumer access to health care.

The demand for the College of Nursing master's of science in nursing program is very strong, as online programs provide educational access for many who otherwise would be unable to pursue graduate study. The FNP and ANP concentrations, for example, have many more highly qualified applicants than can be accepted for each class cohort. This past year, there were 219 applicants for 50 slots. Fifty students were accepted, but the college was forced to deny the applications of the remaining 179 students, many of whom were well-qualified. Among the largest graduate nursing curricula offered in the College of Nursing, the ANP and FNP concentrations are highly competitive, and this competitiveness is a reflection of the dual effects of market demand and the excellent quality and reputation of our concentrations.

Nurse practitioner graduates make

a positive impact in the health of citizens throughout North Carolina and beyond in the delivery of high quality, safe, effective primary, chronic, and subspecialty care. FNP/ANP graduates consistently score above national averages on their national certification exams and successfully transition into successful employment in their specialty areas with multiple employment offers.

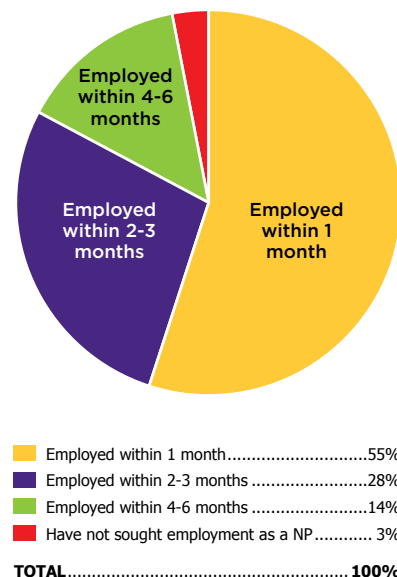
Current workforce trends show physician and physician assistant colleagues increasingly choosing specialty care careers compared to less lucrative primary or chronic care settings. In contrast, a recent survey of all 2011 ANP and FNP graduates demonstrate that the majority of our graduates serve in primary care and out-patient chronic care settings such as long-term care, cardiology, endocrinology, behavioral health and pulmonology as noted in table 1.

Supported by a 62 percent response rate, 55 percent of all ANP and FNP graduates were employed as NPs within one month of graduation and 99 percent within six months (see table 2).

These data are consistent with the educational preparation of our graduates. Graduates of our FNP concentration are prepared to serve as advanced practice nurse leaders in the delivery of primary and chronic, care across the lifespan while our ANP graduates develop competencies in the delivery of primary, chronic, and subspecialty care for adolescents through geriatric populations.

Policy and opinion leaders clearly call for equal partnerships and nursing leadership in all aspects of health-care delivery systems. The CON is a recognized leader in providing leadership in education, service, policy, and clinical care. As nurse practitioners and other nursing leaders continue to build their own places in society, the CON will continue in the tradition of excellence—providing the highest quality NPs to meet the health care access needs of consumers in North

Table 2: How soon were you employed as a nurse practitioner after completion of your program of study?



Carolina and beyond. We continually seek opportunities to mentor and encourage entry level nurses to pursue a graduate degree as a NP. As in many areas, *it takes a village* of dedicated faculty, inter-professional collaborators, and committed alumni to ensure that ECU continues to *lead* in providing innovative methods for educating the next generation of NPs. It is an honor to serve with such esteemed current and future collaborators in this important work. Go Pirates! ■

*Bobby Lowery PhD (c), MN, FNP-BC
Bobby serves as director of the FNP/ANP
Concentrations in the College of Nursing.*





“We’re listening”

Student Leadership Council develops leaders for tomorrow

By Laurie Evans

Two or three times every semester, Alta Andrews, director of community partnership and practice, rallies her troops and brings the College of Nursing Student Leadership Council together. The meetings are lively, engaging, and full of energy, but this was not always the case.

Started in 2009 to dovetail with ECU’s strategic leadership focus, the CON Student Leadership Council was formed. When creating the foundation for the group, Dr. Andrews frequently reminded student representatives, “We’re listening.” This catch phrase lets the students know that the CON

administration is, in fact, listening to them. Now, the phrase is used to remind student leaders of their responsibility to listen to the members of their respective organizations.

Andrews and Laurie Evans, CON marketing director, have watched council meetings evolve from quiet, almost tense meetings to robust and active interactive gatherings. In the first meetings, students kept to themselves and sat with the one or two people they knew in the room. Now, all students sit together and chatter about what is going on in the college.

The energy in the room is contagious. At a recent meeting, the fourth-semester class president described a lunch bag

the seniors will be designing for Pirate Nurses to see if other students would be interested in the supporting the project. Every student in the room chimed in with ideas for the size and shape of the lunch bag. The fourth-semester delegation left with a few new ideas and confidence that the lunch bag would help them reach their goals for the senior class gift in May. The idea that only ECU Pirate Nurses would have the bag excited the council.

Council membership is made up of two representatives from each semester cohort and two representatives from every student organization in the College of Nursing. Fourth-semester students support first-semester beginning students, while representatives from the long established East Carolina Association of Nursing Students (ECANS) give advice to newer groups like the Holistic Health Network (H2O) and the Multicultural Student Nurse Association (MSNA).

The major project of the council is the CON picnic, which is held every semester. The picnic is planned and orchestrated by the students. In addition to friendly competition between classes, faculty and staff in tug of war and relays, the event culminates with a fierce flag football game. The winning team leaves with bragging rights, championship T-shirts, and a trophy that is displayed in the student services office. Most importantly, students spend a Saturday with faculty and staff outside the confines of classrooms and course lectures.

The council gives campus-based students access to CON resources like marketing and development and provides a direct voice to the administration. Empowered by the words, “We’re listening,” student leaders are learning valuable skills to take with them when they graduate. ■

Laurie Evans, MA, is the marketing director for the College of Nursing and provides leadership to the student leadership council.





New Faces of Nursing

Male nursing students are no longer the exception at ECU

By Laurie Evans

One of the first things alumni notice when visiting the college is the changing demographic of nursing from decades before. Not only is the building new; there are more men in our building and in our programs.

Just a few years ago, it was normal to only have three or four men in a BSN class. Today, there are 15 or more men in each class. Currently, of our 636 undergraduate students, 75 or 11.7 percent are male. There are 40 male students (7.5 percent) in the MSN program and three males (10.7 percent) pursuing the PhD in Nursing at ECU.

These male nursing students also impact the student leadership council. Council membership is limited to elected class representatives and officers of student organizations like ECANS and the Multicultural Student Nurse Association. Obviously, their leadership potential is recognized by the student body as a whole.

Linda Hofler (*PhD '07, MSN '87*), chief nursing officer at Vidant Medical Center, supports efforts to bring more males into the profession. She says, "We

have male nurses in our neonatal IC, in the operating room in all of our clinical services, and in roles that support management, education, research, and clinical practice. I believe that having the perspective of males in our facility makes the patient care delivery system and the nursing community stronger."

In January 2011, Dr. Alta Andrews, advisor for the College of Nursing student leadership council, took three students to the Health Sciences Division student leadership council meeting. Interestingly, Dr. Andrews took three male students to the meeting. According to Andrews, "All the students on the HS Division council are graduate-level students, except for the College of Nursing representatives; ours are all undergraduates. Interestingly, no one on the Council seemed surprised that the CON was represented by three males. But they were highly impressed with the composure, critical thinking skills, and leadership talents from our delegation." ■

Laurie Evans, MA, is the marketing director for the College of Nursing and provides leadership to the student leadership council.

Featured from left to right: Abel Real, Jeffrey (Dane) Wolgemuth and John Berger who are members of the December 2012 BSN class.





Multicultural Student
Nurse Association
COOK BOOK



Sharing our Culture

Student group brings cultural competency to the table

By Crystal Baity

This fall, East Carolina University nursing students shared a meal and learned something about each other at the same time.

The Multicultural Student Nursing Association hosted a potluck dinner in October. The dishes came from the association's first cookbook, printed in spring 2011 to raise funds for the group.

MSNA began as small group of black nursing students in 2004 and has grown to nearly 100 nursing and pre-nursing students from many ethnic backgrounds, said Dr. Walter Houston, faculty advisor for MSNA and director of the Student Development and Counseling Center in the College of Nursing.

This past year, the group was led by Blair Fuller, a senior from Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, who carried on the idea for the cookbook from former president and ECU graduate Jonathan Shaw.

"I had an idea of putting people's stories in it, to include different cultures and how it relates to food," Fuller said.

The potluck celebrated the diversity within the college.

"We will share food and talk about culture and where foods come from,"

she said. "We thought it would be a good way to get together because people will come when there's food."

Cookbook contributors include students, faculty and staff who have shared 43 favorite recipes for appetizers, side and main dishes, salads, and desserts ranging from challa bread to Cuban bean stew to matrimonial cookie bars. Some recipes include its origin and what it means to the person, such as favorite comfort foods to a traditional Thanksgiving dish. The cookbook also includes fun facts about different cultures and food.

Excellent leadership has improved the association's visibility and service to the college and community, Houston said.

"As faculty advisor from the beginning, I have seen wonderful growth and outreach that improves the educational experience for all College of Nursing students," Houston said.

Anyone can join, Fuller said. "It is an organization where all cultures and diversities can get together and learn from each other so that we can all become culturally competent nurses," she said.

MSNA students meet monthly. In the fall, the chaplain and a Spanish interpreter from Pitt County Memorial Hospital spoke about their services and interaction with nurses, Fuller said.

"I think it is important for different races, ethnicities, cultures and religions to come together so that people are more open to different opinions and

ways of living. Nurses need to be educated on different cultures so that they know how to react to different patient's situations," Fuller said.

Knowing where patients are from and cultural differences that may exist will help nurses provide better care in a clinical setting, she said.

To order a cookbook, which costs \$10, send an email to ecumsna@yahoo.com. ■

Crystal Baity is with the ECU News Bureau and frequently covers stories for the College of Nursing.



Featured at left is Blair Fuller, a spring 2012 BSN graduate. At top right is Allyson Ennett, BSN student. At bottom right is a sample of Poppy Seed Bread from the Multicultural Student Nursing Association cookbook.



Battling prenatal depression

Researchers study the effectiveness of a program to help expectant moms

By Crystal Baity

Now with a new baby boy at home, Daja Walters got help with feelings of worthlessness and sadness during her pregnancy by enrolling in an East Carolina University research study.

A College of Nursing research team is studying the effectiveness of a program called Insight-Plus in helping women at risk of depression in pregnancy.

Walters enrolled last September. The San Diego, California native moved to North Carolina in July and was expecting her fourth child. She had not been depressed with previous pregnancies, or at least never recognized it, she said.

This time, she slept a lot, hoping things would be better when she woke up, and at times, she even questioned

her faith. The program helped her cope with the day-to-day tasks of raising older children and working full-time, crying jags, and a loss of interest in just about everything.

"It helped me get a more positive outlook on things," said Walters, 31. "I still use the MP3 player they provided and listen to the mellow tones, the beach. It helps me relax. I do the self-assurance statements to help motivate me."

FEDERALLY-FUNDED STUDY

The Insight-Plus program and study is funded by a \$640,742 National Institute of Mental Health grant awarded to Dr. D. Elizabeth Jesse, ECU professor of graduate nursing science in the College of Nursing and associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology in the Brody School of Medicine.

Studies show up to 50 percent of



Featured at left: Tara King, Insight-Plus resource mom; Elizabeth Feldhousen, Insight-Plus project coordinator, and Dr. Elizabeth Jesse, Insight-Plus project director.

pregnant women experience depressive symptoms, and about 13 percent develop antepartum or prenatal depression, which can mimic typical pregnancy symptoms from mood swings to fatigue or a change in sleep patterns. Up to 50 percent of women who suffer from antepartum depression also will have postpartum depression, so early intervention is important, Jesse said.

Thirty-five women have joined the study to reduce stress and feel better during pregnancy. Researchers want to enroll 124 by the end of this year. Women are being recruited at ECU Physicians Regional Perinatal Center and the Pitt County Health Department.

Walters enjoyed interacting with other expectant mothers who understood her feelings. "The group atmosphere, not just one-on-one, and not feeling like I was being judged, I could talk it out with a group of people," she said.

Participants meet privately in groups at their clinic for two hours once a week for six weeks with Renee Pearson, group facilitator and licensed clinical social worker, and Tara King, resource mom with a master's degree in social work. Gary Ambert is the interpreter. Child care and transportation are offered, and each woman receives an MP3 player loaded with positive affirmations and stress-reducing techniques.

ERASING THE STIGMA

Women often are reluctant to talk about depression during pregnancy or ask for help because of the stigma surrounding it, and they don't want to appear weak or risk being called a "bad mother," said Jesse, a certified nurse midwife. "We take the stigma away," she said.

The program gives women tools to work on obstacles they might face, from domestic violence to finances or housing. "We focus on empowerment, to be in tune with oneself, to develop effective communication skills to get more of what they want or need," said King, who keeps in regular contact with participants during 10 weeks of the study. She also asks that they call when their baby is born so she can send a card or visit.

Researchers also have resources for women who may need help outside the realm of the study, for instance, those who may be suicidal or mentally ill, Jesse said.

Participants complete interviews about stress, sadness, and depression three times during the study. For

taking part, women receive gift cards, regular contact with trained staff, information on prenatal and postpartum depression, and services and resources in the community.

Elizabeth Feldhousen, a doctoral candidate and licensed marriage and family therapist, is the project coordinator. Research assistants are graduate students Mariza James, Farrah Forney, Lisa Buchner, Meagan Capers and Zachary Love.

Co-investigators at ECU are Dr. Melvin Swanson, professor of nursing; Dr. Shelia Bunch, professor and director of the School of Social Work; and Dr. Edward Newton, professor of obstetrics and gynecology and vice chair for clinical research in the Brody School of Medicine. Jesse also is collaborating with colleagues at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Vanderbilt University and the University of Virginia.

People interested in participating in the study may call 252-341-7216. ■

Crystal Baity is with the ECU News Bureau and frequently covers stories for the College of Nursing.



ARTICLES

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Sigma Celebrates



*Elaine Scott, PhD, RN
President, Beta Nu Chapter
Sigma Theta Tau International*

Sigma Theta Tau International – Beta Nu Chapter had a busy and exciting year. In the fall we inducted 136 new members into our chapter and had our most successful fall banquet ever raising over \$3,000 for scholarships through the silent auction and having record attendance for the dinner meeting. Members from eight counties in eastern North Carolina attended and enjoyed learning about “Why Civility Matters!” This presentation, given by Dr. Cynthia Clark, concluded an all day College of Nursing event on *Leaders in Establishing Culturally Competent Encounters: An Interprofessional Approach*.

In October, Pam Reis, president-elect, two other members, and I attended the 41st Biennial in Texas. Gina Woody and Melissa Schwartz had poster presentations accepted for the conference. This Biennial was particularly exciting because we received our 10th Key Award. The award was quite an honor since we are one of only two chapters in the country to

have the distinction of receiving the award ten times. The Key Award is given to chapters that excel in chapter-related activities such as membership recruitment and retention, publicity and programming, and professional and leadership development.

This spring, Beta Nu Chapter collaborated with the College of Nursing and Vidant Health Systems to sponsor the annual Collaborative Research Day. Patricia Bruckenthal, a prominent researcher and educator, presented her work on pain management.

We are also introducing a new campaign this spring called “Honor a Nurse.” As National Nurses Week approaches (May 6–12, 2012), the Beta Nu Chapter will be inviting you to recognize a special nurse who had a personal impact on you by making a donation in her/his honor or memory. This is a unique opportunity to acknowledge instructors, mentors, peers, colleagues, supervisors, and friends who made a significant difference in your life as a nurse. Beta Nu will recognize the gifts by publishing the name of the person in the newsletter and by sending a personal card to the honored nurse if you provide the contact information. Your donations will go toward educating nurses in Haiti. Beta Nu will donate all proceeds from the Honor-A-Nurse campaign to the Haiti Nursing

Beta Nu Chapter inducts 136 new members

The Sigma Theta Tau Beta Nu Chapter inducted 136 new members during a ceremony held November 18, 2011 in the Brody School of Medicine Auditorium in Greenville.

UNDERGRADUATE INDUCTEES

Angela Azzolina
Jennifer Bailey
Leah Barefoot
Meagan Brewer
Ashley Brewington
Allison Broome
Desmond Cacciotti
Victoria Cannon
Winifred Clarke
Kylie Cucinella
Erica Cudic
Grayson Daniell
Brittany De Leon
Brittany Deltz
Courtney Evans
Wendy Fail

Sara Farmer
Denise Feliciano-Ortiz
Brittani French
Blair Fuller
Ashlea Gaddy
Kimberly Garfield
Lauren Gerber
Jessica Goddard
Ashley Goodwin
Kwameshia Hicks
Stephanie Howard
Abigail Hughes
Porsche Hunter
Kristin Hux
Sara Hyde
Jessica Joyner
Lashelle Kinley
Aaron Knight
Caitlin Loftin

Sonja Marino
Patricia Marrero
Kelsey Marshall
Leighann Mason
Rebecca Millberg
Morgan Miller
Logan Monroe
Ashley Nance
Danielle Neeland
Emmalee Noble
Amanda Oney
Kathryn Padgett
Amanda Parker
Bethany Parrett
Tiara Payne
Nicole Pettine
Jessica Poe
Reba Potter
Amy Ramsey

Foundation (HNF, <http://haitinursing.org/>). If you would like to honor a nurse, please send your donation and honoree information to Laura Barnes Jackson at barnesla@ecu.edu. The form that should accompany your check can be found on the Beta Nu page of the

ECU College of Nursing Web site. ■

Elaine Scott, PhD RN, is the president of Beta Nu Chapter, director of the East Carolina Center for Nursing Leadership and an associate professor in the College of Nursing.

Sigma Beta Nu Officers

President

Elaine Scott

President Elect

Pamela Reis

Co-1st Vice President

Dianne Marshburn

Co-2nd Vice President

Linda King

Secretary

Nancy Leggett-Frazier

Treasurer

Phil Julian

First Counselor

Mark Hand

Second Counselor

Peggy Edmondson

Archivist

Carolyn Horne

Research Chair

Marti Engelke

Governance Committee Chair

Karen Krupa

Leadership Succession Committee Chair

Gina Woody



Taylor Rigsby
Peyton Roberson
Rebecca Simmons
Allison Stone
Kaitlyn Stover
Kristin Sumrell
Courtney Taylor
Aude Thema
Carli Tice
Hannah Travlos
Marie Versteeg
Chelsea Welling
Casey White
Kaitlyn Whitlock

GRADUATE INDUCTEES

Candace Adkins

Tara Arnold
Rebekah Barnes
Ann Bell
Jennifer Berenics
Delisha Broadhurst
Susan Bryson
Beth Connelly
Rachel Crane
Brenda Darden-Myrick
Vera Eckard
Robert Eliason
Stephanie Ellis
Lisa Frizzelle
Kristin Garrett
Keyona Grant
Jamie Hardison
Jillian Harris
Amy Henkel
Janet Intini

Lisa James
Tina Jenkins
Cristine Jones
Staci Kay
Angela Kilby
Jerri Lankford
Tywana Lawson
May Lee
Donna Leggette
Julie Linder
Jennifer Lipsky
Sarah Lovern
Kelley Madden
Jennifer Maynard
Megan McCormick
Kimberly McDonough
Carol McLamb
Amy Merritt
Anna Moore

Sandra Morris
Terrie Murray
Dana Nichols
Leslie Nunn
Cassandra Oldenburg
Elizabeth Pearsall
Melissa Peoples
Jennifer Perry
Ashley Potter
Kristi Reguin-Hartman
Katherine Robinson
Jennifer Rook
Heather Sanders
Rebecca Schell
Regina Scholer
Elizabeth Seawell
Amanda Shackelford
Pamela Sullivan
Lisa Surby

Laila Valliani
Kathryn Womble
Lindsey Wooten
LaNika Wright

NURSE LEADERS

Mildred Carraway
Teresa Lewis
Chris Memering
Jennifer Rutledge
Lex Turner

COLLEGE OF NURSING





Shannon Baker

Shannon Baker, RN, MSN, CNE, has joined the faculty as a clinical instructor in the undergraduate program. She obtained her BSN and MSN degrees

from East Carolina University and taught at Pitt Community College prior to joining the ECU faculty.

Cornelia (Connie) Beck Dewees, RN, DrPH, has joined the faculty as a clinical assistant professor. Prior to joining the ECU faculty, Dr. Dewees taught at the Medical University of South Carolina. Her doctoral degree was earned at UNC-Chapel Hill. She is also a certified legal nurse consultant.

Jana Pressler, RN, PhD, has joined the faculty as associate dean for graduate programs. She received her PhD from Case Western Reserve University, postdoctoral fellowship from the University of Rochester,



Jana Pressler

and her Pediatric Nurse Practitioner certificate and master's of arts degree from the University of Iowa. Prior to coming to ECU, Pressler was the director of the doctor of nursing practice HRSA grant at the University of Oklahoma.

Lorie Bongiorno Sigmon, RN, DNP, MSN, has joined the faculty as a clinical instructor in the undergraduate program. Lorie received the doctor of nursing practice degree from Waynesburg University and the master's of science in nursing degree from the University of Tampa. Prior to coming to ECU, she was the director of nursing programs at Nash Community College.

Allison Swift, RN, MSN, has joined the faculty as a clinical instructor in the undergraduate program. She earned her MSN degree at East Carolina University and worked at Pitt County Memorial



Allison Swift

Hospital prior to joining the faculty. **Karen Yarborough**, RN, MSN, has joined the faculty as a clinical instructor in the undergraduate program. She earned her MSN degree from East Carolina University and worked at Wayne Memorial Hospital prior to joining the ECU faculty.

Carol Ann King, RN, DNP, FNP, has joined the faculty as a clinical instructor working with the FNP/ANP concentrations. She received her doctor of nursing practice degree from Duke University with a capstone focus on colorectal cancer screening in the uninsured population. She also holds the master's of science in nursing and bachelor of science in nursing degrees from ECU. Prior to joining the faculty, she was the lead nurse practitioner for the WATCH Healthcare Program in Goldsboro, NC. ■

ECU COLLEGE OF NURSING MISSION

The mission of ECUCON is to serve as a national model for transforming the health of rural underserved regions through excellence and innovation in nursing education, leadership, research, scholarship and practice.





Selba Morris Harris (BSN 64) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Cynthia S. Kotrady (BSN 64) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Deitra L. Lowdermilk (BSN 66) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Christine Allred Fazier (BSN 68) retired to Sunset Beach. She is enjoying life in the slow lane and volunteers in a free adult medical clinic each month.

Louise Walters Sammons (BSN 68) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Phyllis Nichols Horns (BSN 69) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011. Phyllis currently serves as vice chancellor for health sciences at East Carolina University.

Jacqueline Ish Hutcherson (BSN 69, MSN 94) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Judith W. Kuykendall (BSN 70) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Frances Rogers Eason (BSN 71, MSN 79) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Helen Merrill Brinson (BSN 72, MSN 79) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011. Helen retired from EAHEC in 2011 and was selected as the ECUCON Distinguished Alumni in February 2012.

Hazel Gay Moore (BSN 72, MSN 79) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Karen Custer Krupa (BSN 73) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Alta Whaley Andrews (BSN 74) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Landrea Johnson Rhynes (BSN 75) is pleased to announce that her oldest daughter, Adrienne, married last fall and is employed as an RN at Mission Hospitals in Asheville, North Carolina. Her youngest daughter, Meredith, student taught in Asheville.

Sylvia Thigpen Brown (BSN 75, MSN 78) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011. She currently serves as dean of the ECU College of Nursing.

Susan S. Gerard (BSN 75) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2012.

Lou Whichard Everett (BSN 76, MSN 79) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Barbara Floyd Smith (BSN 76) took a break from nursing to raise her family and is now looking forward to getting back into nursing.

Dianne Mabel Marshburn (BSN 77, MSN 86, PhD 07) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Melinda Lanter Fritz (BSN 78) received a Wilkes Outstanding Winner Award for Morton Plant Mease Healthcare System in May, 2010. She works in the NICU in Clearwater, Florida.

Gale Brown Adcock (BSN 78) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Paula Hill Ivey (BSN 78) received her MSN in 2001 from University of Phoenix and her Post Master's FNP in 2003 from UNC-Chapel Hill. She currently works with Wayne Initiative for School Health in Wayne County, North Carolina, as an FNP serving children in grades 5-12. She also works with Goshen Medical Center, a family practice that serves everyone with a focus on the Hispanic population and she works with an attorney serving as an expert in medical malpractice cases and in the ER at Wayne Memorial.

Jan G. Overman (BSN 78, MSN 86) received her EdD in Education Leadership in Higher Education Administration from Appalachian State University in August 2010. She is Dean of Health Technologies, Forsyth Technical Community College.

Annette B. Wysocki (BSN 78, MSN 80) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Nettie Tyson Evans (BSN 79, MSN 83) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2012.

Sylvene Osteen Spickerman (MSN 79) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Richard Eugene McDaniel (BSN 80) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Susan Sutcliffe Lassiter (MSN 80) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2012.

Carmen R. Vincent (BSN 81) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2012.

Sue Collier (BSN 81, MSN 91) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Diane Adkins Poole (BSN 81, MSN 88) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Diana Lynn Snodgrass Olive (BSN 81) died April 12, 2010, in Johnson City, Tennessee. She worked in nursing roles in medical ICU, cardiac rehabilitation, critical care nurse education, clinical trials and as a volunteer summer camp nurse.

Pat Oullette (BSN 82, MSN 08) works at Vidant Medical Center and was recently named to NC's Great 100.

Cindy Matthews Duber (BSN 82) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Martha McDonald Dartt (BSN 82) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2012.

Teresa Baker Gillespie (BSN 83) was named chief nursing officer of the University of Mississippi Children's Hospital.

Marshall Dewayne Byrd (BSN 83) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Mollie Byrd Powell (BSN 84, MSN 01) works at Vidant Medical Center and teaches at the ECU College of Nursing. She was recently named to NC's Great 100.

Donna Lassiter Moses (BSN 84) works at Vidant Medical Center and was recently named to NC's Great 100.

Sandra Mildred Walsh (MSN 84) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Linda D. Burhans (BSN 85, MSN 89, PhD 08) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2012.

Bobby Dean Lowery (BSN 85) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Debra C. Wallace (MSN 85) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Donna White Roberson (BSN 86, MSN 93) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Joanne Schoen Stevens (BSN 87, MSN 94) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2012.

Linda Renee Hofler (MSN 87, PhD 07) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Laurie Elm Taylor (BSN 87) is married to **Jeter P. Taylor, III, MD(BSOM 87)**, and lives in Irmo, South Carolina. They have three children, J. P. IV, Meagan and Connor.

Linda Maxine Bond (BSN 87, MSN 97) works at Vidant Medical Center and was recently named to NC's Great 100.

Brenda Darden Myrick (BSN 92) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Anna M. Weaver (BSN 93, MSN 02) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2012.

Malinda Chapman Harrington (BSN 94, MSN 08) works at Vidant Medical Center and was recently named to NC's Great 100.

Terri Harper Michell (BSN 95, MSN 98) was named VP of Clinical Solutions with Credence Health in January 2010. She lives in Raleigh, North Carolina, with her husband, Matthew.

Debbie Skinner Hines (BSN 95) works at Vidant Medical Center and was recently named to NC's Great 100.

Selene Wheless Gwaltney (BSN 98) is the administrative clinical manager at Hope Women's Cancer Centers in Asheville, North Carolina.

Tiyoko Howard Johnson (BSN 98) completed her MBA from Winston-Salem University in December 2010.

Lori Sherman Irelan (BSN 98) received her MSN in 2006 from Wilmington University in Delaware. She is a FNP and currently practices in an Internal Med/Peds office in Lewes, Delaware. She is also a full-time faculty assistant professor for Wilmington University where she is the lead faculty for the Georgetown, Delaware campus NP program. She is also currently enrolled in the doctoral program at Widener University to receive the DNP. Irelan authored a chapter in a textbook on psychopharmacology in primary care.



Featured above is *Studying at Laupus Lake* by Lou Everett.

Frankie Guill Bogenn (BSN 99) and Craig Bogenn (BSN 07) celebrated the birth of twin girls on February 10, 2011. Hannah Alexis 4lbs. 7 oz, 18 inches long and Reagen Suzanne 5lbs. 7oz, 19 inches.

Rachel Eldeson Hutchins (BSN 00) completed training and earned her wings as an Air Force Flight Nurse. She serves in the 514th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron of the U.S Air Force Reserves and also works full-time as an Oncology Nurse at a large practice in NJ. She had previously served in the U.S. Navy as Nurse Corps Officer and was featured in an issue of Pulse back in 2003 when she deployed to Iraq.

Danielle Outlaw Rackley (BSN 01) is an RN at Nash Healthcare Systems in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, in the Med-Tele Unit. She is married to Scott Rackley and they have one son, Jack.

Jamisson Jackson McPhail (BSN 04) is married to Bryan McPhail and has one son named Parker. She is currently employed as nurse manager for ECU's Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine Outpatient Clinic.

Elizabeth Lum Huston (BSN 05) received an outstanding student award from the Duke University School of Nursing.

Kamilah Verlista Blount (MSN 05) works at Vidant Medical Center and was recently named to NC's Great 100.

Kelli Hooker Corbett (BSN 05) is employed by Wayne Memorial Hospital.

Elaine Singelton Scott (PhD 05) was inducted in the CON Hall of Fame, 2011.

Lindsey Jo Williford (BSN 07) is currently enrolled in Family Nurse Practitioner Program at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

Kathy Pearsall Metrick (BSN 07) was promoted to Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps. She married Lt. Aaron Metrick on June 10, 2011.

Craig Bogenn (BSN 07) and Frankie Guill Bogenn (BSN 99) celebrated the birth of twin girls on February 10, 2011. Hannah Alexis 4lbs. 7 oz, 18 inches long and Reagen Suzanne 5lbs. 7oz, 19 inches.

Candice Debrail Cogdell (BSN 08) spent her first two years of practice at Carolina East Medical Center. She is now a travel nurse.

Wendy Phillips Chavez (MSN 08) was elected to the Association for Home and Hospice Care of NC Board of Directors in 2009. She was recently appointed to the executive committee for the board.

Heather Brower Hutchins (BSN 09) works at UNC Hospitals in the Admission Discharge Unit.

Aurelia Andrews Morris (BSN 09) received her RN license in February 2010. She works at Johnston Health in Smithfield on the 3rd floor medical unit. She was recently married.

Nykeshia Michelle Boone (BSN 10) works in the NICU at Vidant Medical Center.

Brittany McGrath Richardson (BSN 10) was married on October 9, 2011.

Erica Morgan Cook (BSN 10) was married in October 2010 and works at WakeMed in Raleigh on the Cardiothoracic Surgical Intermediate Unit.

Brandy Nicole Anderson (BSN 10) works nights at St. Agnes Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, on a post-surgical unit.

Meagan Caitlin Moore (BSN 10) is employed at Nash General Hospital as a staff nurse on the surgical floor. ■

Visit us at: www.nursing.ecu.edu/alumni_info.aspx to submit your class notes.

Alumna named one of Houston's top 10 nurses



By Crystal Baity

A Texas neonatal intensive care nurse and East Carolina University alumna has been named one of Houston's Top 10 nurses.

Ann Gray Kubanda (BSN '81) is a nurse and physician liaison at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital, where she has worked almost 25 years. She was honored in 2002 and 2008 as the hospital's employee of the year.

In 2008, she started and still maintains a line team in the neonatal intensive care unit that has been instrumental in significantly reducing catheter-related blood stream infections in babies.

Among her contributions, Kubanda has been making bereavement gowns for premature infants since she became a nurse.

"Many times, the deaths of these infants are unexpected, and often the parents don't have time or resources to buy clothing," she said.

Kubanda has two sons, Michael, 23, and Matthew, 22, and she has been

married 28 years to George Kubanda, who is an alumnus of ECU and Warren Wilson College. They attend as many ECU football games held in the Houston area as possible. Her mother, Mary Ann Gray, still lives in Greenville. One of six children, Kubanda has a brother and two sisters who also graduated from ECU.

While she never thought of doing anything else, Kubanda believes her and her twin sister's premature birth probably motivated her work in neonatal nursing. Her nursing career began 31 years ago at Pitt County Memorial Hospital in Greenville.

The Houston Chronicle each year recognizes 10 outstanding nurses from Greater Houston's health care community during National Nurses Week, celebrated each year May 6-12. More than 700 nominations were received and the newspaper featured the winners in its May 8 issue.

"This award took me totally by

surprise," Kubanda said. "I am honored to work in an environment where colleagues and management encourage growth and autonomy. Their support strengthens my passion to give back, and I do this through the outlet that prompted my nomination and subsequent award."

Nursing colleague Gina Leigh Jones submitted the nomination describing Kubanda's role at the hospital and her commitment to the neonatal intensive care unit's End of Life/Bereavement Team.

"When infants die, their parents are left with often so little of their precious baby. Memory-making is so important, as it gives parents something tangible of their child. Families have not had the time to create memories as their baby has never left the hospital. Therefore, it is up to us to provide everything we can for parents, a record of their child and their story," Jones said, noting that Kubanda purchases fabric and makes keepsake gowns in many different sizes for parents. "Infants are placed in the gowns, and the last images of their baby are often in one of her gowns, as their son or daughter, and not of a dying baby in a bed."

Kubanda also created a pattern and buys fabrics to make memory envelopes for parents to take home keepsakes of their children.

"Ann does all of this in addition to her responsibilities as physician liaison, staff nurse, and member of multiple working committees," Jones said. "Ann Kubanda exemplifies all of the qualities and more of what a caregiver should and can be. She is a role model for me and all who work with her as she profoundly touches lives and families never forget her kindness." ■

Crystal Baity is with the ECU News Bureau and frequently covers stories for the College of Nursing.

Featured above is Ann Kubanda with bereavement gowns she makes for premature infants. Photo courtesy of John Lynch, Memorial Hermann Healthcare System.

Pulse is published annually by the East Carolina University College of Nursing for alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the school. Send your story ideas or comments to the Editor, *Pulse* Magazine, ECU College of Nursing, 4165K Health Sciences Building, Greenville, NC 27858 (252-744-6424 or e-mail evansl@ecu.edu).

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Alumni on the Web

Please visit the College of Nursing's website at www.nursing.ecu.edu and Facebook page.

To update your contact information, please visit the CON website alumni page and click on "update your information." The link has a place for you to drop us a note with information that you would like to share (new job, new marriage, professional certifications, awards, etc.) The College of Nursing wants to stay in touch with you!

The College of Nursing is accepting nominations for the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award. Nominations should be sent by August 1 to: ECU College of Nursing, 4165K Health Sciences Building, Mail Stop 162, Greenville, NC 27858, Attn: Laurie Evans.





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